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Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 5 December 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Namibia and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America and the States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), we herewith provide a copy of the joint United States-SADC Declaration on United Nations Sanctions and Restraint in Sale and Transfers of Conventional Arms to Regions of Conflict in Africa (see annex), which will be issued publicly on 15 December 2000. We request that you circulate this document to all Member States.

(*Signed*) Martin **Andjaba**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia
to the United Nations and Current Chairman
of the Southern African Development Community

(*Signed*) Richard C. **Holbrooke**
Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 5 December 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Namibia and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

United States-Southern African Development Community Declaration on United Nations Sanctions and Restraint in Sale and Transfers of Conventional Arms to Regions of Conflict in Africa

The United States and the States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are deeply concerned about the risks to national, subregional, regional and international security and stability that are associated with the continuing transfers of illicit and licit conventional arms to regions of conflict in Africa. Although there are a number of United Nations Security Council arms embargoes on Africa, including that against the forces of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) in Angola, thousands of conventional armaments worth millions of dollars continue to flow into each of the regions of conflict on the continent, prolonging conflict, maiming and killing innocent civilians. We therefore strongly urge all States, particularly supplier States, to undertake immediately to:

- Strictly observe and enforce United Nations arms embargoes, and to share with the United Nations sanctions committees and with each other information on violations of these embargoes by supplier, transit and recipient States;
- Adopt national legislation, where needed, to criminalize violations of these United Nations sanctions;
- Exercise restraint in the sale and transfer of conventional arms to regions of conflict in Africa not subject to United Nations Security Council arms embargoes;
- Adopt and implement appropriate national controls and other measures, where needed, over surplus stocks, including destruction or disabling when in a position to do so, and destroy or disable those arms confiscated or collected following the cessation of civil or international conflict, with a view to ensuring that they are not transferred to areas of conflict in Africa;
- Exchange information as appropriate on national measures which have been taken to implement the steps called for in this Declaration.

The United States and the SADC member States are committed to fostering regional peace and security in Africa. We call on all States to work cooperatively and in solidarity to this end.